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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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report on the State Institute of Hygiene (Panstwowy Zaklad Higieny) in Warsaw. The report contains information on the Director General Feliks Przesmycki, the location of the institute, its various departments, the number of employees, salaries paid, research work being conducted by the institute on poliomyelitis, including data on the import of monkeys from Communist China; and the use of the Roman Catholic Church to encourage the vaccination of Polish children against poliomyelitis. Also there is information to the effect that the institute is not connected with any BW activities, and does not engage in any secret work.

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Professor Feliks PRZESMYCKI is the Director General of the STATE INSTITUTE OF HYGIENE / Państwowy Zakład Higieny / in Warsaw since 1945. He had been with the same Institute since 1922, making his way up to his present position. His scientific career started about the same time. In 1929 PRZESMYCKI was appointed professor of the University of Warsaw, Chair of Microbiology. He continued with the Institute during the German occupation of Poland, since the Institute was the only organization allowed to exist in occupied Poland.

Feliks PRZESMYCKI heads also the Chair of Epidemiology of the Warsaw Medical Academy. This is the only chair of epidemiology in Poland, with a limited number of students.

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Feliks PRZESMYCKI'S deputy in the State Institute of Hygiene is now Professor Marcin KACPRZAK, the Rector of the Warsaw Medical Academy. When PRZESMYCKI goes to lecture at the Medical Academy, Marcin KACPRZAK is his superior. Not an unusual situation in Poland where people need more than one job and have to live with each other.

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STATE INSTITUTE OF HYGIENE

The Institute was established in Warsaw after the W.W.I. It should be called in Polish "Instytut" instead of "Zaklad" but PRZESMYCKI keeps the old name because of the relatively long tradition.

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The Institute is located in two buildings, the main building facing the Chocimska Street. After the war the Institute housed also the Ministry of Health and other health organizations but those outfits gradually built their own headquarters and left the Institute.

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There are 600 workers on the Institute's payroll. Of those 300 are scientific workers and the rest administrative workers. The Institute has 12 major departments, headed by top ranking scientists. Senior scientific workers of the " adiunkt " / adjunct-or assistant / rank are paid ca 3000 zlotys a month. Those with professorial ranks make ca 5000 zlotys a month. In the post-war period there were provincial branches of the Institute but they have been liquidated a few years ago.

There is almost negligible number of Party members among the scientific workers of the Institute [redacted] 12 scientists left [redacted] the Party in 1958 when the Party leaders stated that lukewarm members might get out. [redacted]

[redacted] They joined once the Party, mostly as opportunists or misguided men. Some of them felt uneasy as Party members, others have remained opportunists. [redacted] institutions, granting scholarships, are not too enthusiastic about Party members, as are [redacted] immigration and visa authorities. [redacted]

The State Institute of Hygiene is not even remotely connected with any B.W. activities and does not handle any secret work, according to Poliks PRZESMYCKI

Any foreigner coming to the Institute may see "everything" because PRZESMYCKI has nothing to hide. Of course, during the "Stalin era" he would not have told much to foreign visitors, or even to Polish newspapermen. Today, PRZESMYCKI takes out statistical sheets and asks his visitors what they would like to know.

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[redacted] the State Institute of Hygiene, has never been engaged in activities of military character and always has been dealing with the problems of public health. [redacted] before the war there were some institutions in Poland which were dealing with warfare problems like the "GAS INSTITUTE" on Ludna Street in Warsaw where research work on combat gases was conducted but that work was in no way a part of the Institute of Hygiene.

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The role of the Institute is to create means for fighting diseases in Poland of epidemic character. The Institute is ready to act in any emergency and it works without publicity. A few years ago, when the Polish flagship "BATORY"

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[redacted] brought small pox to Poland. [redacted]

[redacted] In spite of vaccination [redacted] and normal routine some sailors were sick when they arrived in Gdynia. The State Institute of Hygiene then went into action and the so-called three-city area Gdynia-Sopot-Gdańsk, with the population near 300,000 people, was vaccinated in two days. [redacted] nobody in the world could do a better job. There were some four or five cases of small pox in

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Poland in recent years [redacted]

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At present the State Institute of Hygiene is concentrating on polio. PRZESMYCKI has usually a hard time to get money from the government for his projects or equipment. However, as far as polio is concerned, PRZESMYCKI

[redacted] got from the government the necessary assistance. At present there is vaccination rolling with full speed in Poland and every child must be vaccinated whether his parents like the idea or not.

[redacted]

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Feliks PRZESMYCKI is in "monkey business with China" presently. For his polio program he needs thousands of monkeys he imports from Communist China and Chinese have by the latest count or estimates almost as many monkeys as people.

[redacted] it was a serious business [redacted] with Chinese. During the first year [redacted]

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[redacted] A single monkey cost the Polish government between 30 and 40 dollars and practically speaking it was a waste of money because the death rate [redacted] amounted to 85-90% and situation looked quite hopeless. When he switched to the Chinese business, the situation changed radically. The Chinese Communists, no matter what people think about their ideology, are good businessmen. They have some teams for catching monkeys and the Chinese catchers are quite experienced men. Then when they have the animals caught, they vaccinate them against tuberculosis and after a period of observation they deliver monkeys to the point where they are loaded on Polish planes. These are the regular passenger planes with seats removed for the trip. 400 monkeys to a plane, all in individual cages [redacted]

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[redacted] Polish planes travel over Russia, with four or five stops on the

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way for refuelling. [redacted] In Warsaw the Institute's trucks, specially equipped, bring monkeys to the Institute. Usually there are more than 1000 animals in the Institute. The Chinese monkeys cost the Polish government between 10 and 15 dollars a piece only, or less than a half what Poles used to pay [redacted]

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The problem of polio in Poland will be licked, according to Feliks PRZESMYCKI. He is almost fanatical as polio vaccination is concerned. He started his program with a TV show and to convince parents he ordered to vaccinate himself for publicity.

To vaccinate Polish children, as soon as possible, PRZESMYCKI is using every channel available. He does not think that administration measures are enough, though forceful. And what is the strongest force in small Polish towns and villages? The Catholic Church. So PRZESMYCKI goes to pastors in provincial towns and asks them for help. "all right professor"- told him a priest at Wyszaków near Warsaw. "Give me some literature for my Sunday sermon about polio vaccine". At an agreed time the PRZESMYCKI'S team found every child from the Wyszaków area ready for vaccination. Władysław WICHA, the Minister of Internal Affairs could not have done it even by using the KGB force [redacted]

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[redacted] there is not a greater power in Poland than the Catholic Church.

[redacted] the Catholic Church is an expression of Polish nationalism. Because Russia has been always identified with a non-Catholic religion, plain Poles think at least by adhering to the Roman Catholic Church they may show their different origin and Western mind and the will of not to be diluted in the Russian sea.

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